

## GOAL FOUR

***Collect and disseminate information to ensure an informed public, and informed decision making by the government employees, while maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of personal information where appropriate.***

## STRATEGIES

- Build a system for sharing Criminal Justice Information (CJIS) across political boundaries.
- Expand the use of the Geographic Information System (GIS) “hub” for sharing data.
- Create communication mechanisms to quickly inform the appropriate personnel of public health or safety threats.
- Identify information privacy requirements and plan for the effective resolution of privacy issues.
- Plan and implement security measures to protect information and other assets from unauthorized access.

Information is a significant asset and becomes even more valuable when it is easy to find and use. We must guard against its misuse by protecting data using strong privacy policies and security measures. Improving public safety through Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS) will be accomplished by way of a plan developed under the direction of the Criminal Justice Information Sharing Board and Executive Committee. This effort involves not just state entities like the Courts, Attorney General's Office and Department of Corrections, but also local police, sheriffs and state's attorneys. From the time a crime occurs, until an arrest is made, and conviction and sentencing take place, many people in different organizations are involved. Having up-to-date, accurate information shared during the process is essential. An important component of the implementation plan is the creation of an information sharing hub to accomplish this objective.

The continued development of the Geographic Information System (GIS) hub will benefit North Dakota agencies, departments, institutions and the public by providing centralized storage of location-based information and making it accessible to agencies and to the public. Geographic information provided in the form of maps can provide data in a visual format that is easily understood. Maps of legislative and school boundaries plotted against demographic data, maps of changing water boundaries and flood plains provide more information in a single picture than pages of text can convey.

Technology plays a vital role in informing the appropriate personnel of public health or safety threats. One program launched to communicate health emergency information is

the Health Alert Network, part of North Dakota Department of Health's bioterrorism readiness program. It was established under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and serves as a communication network among state and local public health agencies, health care providers, hospitals and emergency management officials. Another program being implemented by January 1, 2003 is Amber Alert, a partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to send an emergency alert to the public when a child is abducted and believed to be in grave danger. As with other efforts, North Dakota excels in bringing people and ideas together for the best possible solution.

In a June 2002 survey, nearly two-thirds of North Dakota citizens expressed concern about privacy on the Internet. With the ability to easily collect and access information comes the responsibility for protecting the privacy of personal information and securing data from unauthorized uses. The public's need to know must be balanced with the rights of individuals for privacy. Initial policies have been developed for state agency practices based on principles of notice, choice, access and security. Additional study of state and federal legislation, including coordination of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliance, will provide the background for planning next steps to address privacy issues. A comprehensive security framework will be developed to outline the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in protecting information and technology assets, from the system administrator to the end user.

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